

## Palestinians deny responsibility for poisoned Jaffa oranges

ONN, Feb. 1 (R). — Sales of Israeli Jaffa oranges were halted in West Berlin today although there has been an official ban on the oranges in West Germany. Health authorities in many European countries ordered urgent checks on fruit stocks after the discovery of poisoned oranges in Holland and West Germany. The Palestine news agency Wafa today said Palestinians had nothing to do with the poisoning of Israeli oranges sent to Europe. (See story page 6).

Volume 3, Number 667

## New anti-Sadat offensive drafted for Algiers summit

VERS, Feb. 1 (R). — Plans for a new offensive against the Israeli peace moves are drawn up today for the Oval of hardline Arab leaders who open a summit conference in Algiers tomorrow. Unnamed sources said the discussions, worked out by foreign ministers and a Palestinian delegation, were expected to provide for greater economic and military cooperation between members of the "adherence Front."

The alliance, bitterly opposed to President Anwar Sadat's initiative for peace with Israel, includes Algeria, Syria, South Yemen, the Libyans and the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Efforts to increase support for Syria, regarded by the barons as the sole remaining "frontline" neighbour of Israel, were a major topic at the first summit in Tripoli last December.

Egyptian President Hafez Aswan was the first leader to arrive for the Algiers conference. In a brief airport statement, he said he was optimistic about the prospects for the summit.

Mr. Abu Sharif said in a press statement that rejection front leaders would call for the formulation of practical programmes for a "long-term confrontation against the enemies of the Arab masses in general and of the Palestinians in particular."

Mr. Abu Sharif said the Palestinian rejection front was striving to have a six-point charter adopted in Tripoli by commando leaders last December, included in new political and organisational programmes.

The six points, to be discussed at a meeting of the Palestinian National Council (parliament-in-exile) on March 13, reiterate rejection of UN Security Council Resolution 242 for a Middle East settlement.

They also oppose any negotiations with Israel and advocate the establishment of a Palestinian state on "any liberated part of Palestine."

Mr. Abu Sharif added that once the charter was adopted by the Palestinian National Council, the PFLP would participate in the work of the PLO Executive Committee.

The PFLP suspended its membership of the executive committee in 1974 in protest against the committee's policy towards a Middle East settlement.

According to the pro-Libyan Lebanese daily Al Safir, Iraq has called for the rejection of United Nations Resolution 242 and 338 and for the Palestinian commando movement to press ahead with its aim of establishing a "democratic state on the whole of Palestine."

Informants have said that in Tripoli the Libyans secretly pledged \$1 billion in aid to Syria and that a big consignment of Soviet weapons was subsequently delivered there.

Confidence sources in Algiers said the foreign ministers had also discussed ways of enlarging the hardline front.

Intensive diplomatic efforts failed to enlist Iraqi support, and the sources said the alliance may now be looking towards the conservative leaders of Saudi Arabia and the Gulf.

The Saudis provide vital financial support to Egypt. Even their tacit support for the front would be an important boost for its efforts to destroy what it regards as an anti-Arab conspiracy engineered by the United States, Israel and Egypt.

The sources said the heads of state may have to adopt an ambivalent strategy allowing them to step up their offensive against the current peace moves, while not antagonising the more moderate Arab leaders.

**SOMALIA, ETHIOPIA TRADE ACCUSATIONS**

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For its part, Somalia reported that Ethiopian planes had killed one person and wounded 14 in raids yesterday on Somali border communities close to the main warfront in eastern Ethiopia.

## Prince Hassan returns home

AMMAN, Feb. 1 (JNA). — His Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Her Highness Princess Sarvath returned last night after a ten-day visit to the United States.

His Majesty King Hussein welcomed the royal couple on their arrival at the airport.

During his stay the Crown Prince met with a number of top ranking American officials in Washington and New York and discussed with them the possibilities of working out a research programme in Jordan in cooperation with American institutions.

On the return journey, a Highness met a number of officials in London to discuss possible long-term cooperation with specialised international institutions in a field of finance and

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## ANA, JNA split seen

TRUT, Feb. 1 (R). — The official Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) today distributed its news bulletin under its own name, rather than with its Jordanian counterpart.

SANA and the Jordanian news Agency (JNA) have been distributing a joint bulletin for about a year, creating the Jordanian-Syrian news Agency (JSNA). This allowed the coordination of the two countries' activities in the various domains, including the field of information.

There has been no immediate official explanation for the split. Observers however, noted that relations between the two states became lukewarm over President Anwar Sadat's peace moves towards Israel.

Syrian Foreign Minister Abdul Hafiz Khaddam, in an interview with the London magazine Al Hayat last week, said the Jordanian stand was "incomprehensible."

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## JORDAN TIMES

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Editor: RAMI G. KHOURI  
Managing Editor: JENAS TUTUNJI  
Deputy Managing Editor: BASSAM BISHUTI  
Editorial Staff: AL MARTINY  
Editorial and advertising offices:  
Jordan Press Foundation  
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan  
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## No change in the bottom line

Nobody can pretend that Jordan today is a regional business centre. Nevertheless a number of foreign companies have established offices here, and there are operations based in Jordan which are regional in nature.

Yet as the survey conducted by two professors at the University of Jordan and published on this page today shows, those companies who are here are less than universally satisfied with the conditions under which they are operating.

We presume that the government is serious in its intentions about building Jordan into a regional business centre. We acknowledge that the government is working towards alleviating the problems but we are concerned that right down there, at the end of the balance sheet, the bottom line is not showing much change.

Of course the Telecommunications Corporation is doing something about telephones and telex lines. But how many people are still waiting for telephones?

Of course the Ministry of Supply is doing something about the cost of living. But all its efforts on controlling food prices and restaurant prices are not going to make much inroads in the cost of living for expatriates while their expenses are dominated by the cost of housing and office accommodation in the capital.

Of course rents have come down recently. But down from what to what? If rents in 1976 rocketted to six times their 1974 levels and have now come down to only four times their 1974 levels does that make them cheap today?

It is going to take more than good intentions and a few palliatives to really change the bottom line.

At the end of the day Jordan's success in becoming a regional business centre will depend on how courageous people in authority are today in getting to grips with the situation and making Jordan more attractive for the internationally oriented business man tomorrow.

The specifics of what needs to be done are obvious from the survey by Dr. Kamel Abu Jaber and Dr. Fawzi Ghareibeh. What actually is done will be a measure of officialdom's real desire to build an international business centre here against paying the idea lip service.

## ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

AL RA'I, on Wednesday, said His Majesty King Hussein's surprise visit on Sunday to the Bedouin refugee camp was followed up on Tuesday with another meeting with a delegation from refugee camps. King Hussein explained to these, the people of the Palestinian cause, Jordan's viewpoint on the cause and he stressed the country's determination to realize Arab solidarity. As far as the Palestinian issue is concerned, His Majesty clarified the bases upon which a solution must be established. He said a comprehensive and just peace based on the return of occupied territories, including Jerusalem, to their Arab owners and the guarantee of Palestinian self-determination must be afforded.

## THE BRITISH COUNCIL

and

## THE JORDAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

present

A lecturer on Air Pollution by Dr. Adil Jarar,  
President of the Jordan Chemical Society.  
At 17:30 today at the British Council Centre.

opening  
shortly

Bar. BeQue

AMMAN - SHMEISANI  
OPPOSITE JORDAN TOWER.

## New survey by university professors probes attitudes of foreign companies here

The Dean of the Faculty of Commerce and Economics at the University of Jordan Dr. Kamel Abu Jaber, and his deputy Dr. Fawzi Ghareibeh have finalised a study on the difficulties and expectations of foreign companies in Jordan. We publish below a summary of their findings which first appeared in Wednesday's Al Ra'i Arabic daily.

The study included a description of the situation of these companies from their date of establishment until the end of the year 1976. It also included the comments and observations by these companies on the facilities and services which they receive from the Jordanian government.

The study has shown that many of these companies, although registered at the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, have no actual existence in Jordan.

It was discovered through the study that 50 of the foreign companies are European, 34 American, four Lebanese and the rest are from different other countries.

The main interests of these companies are in the fields of commerce, marketing, electro-industries, engineering and contracting, medical services, and insurance services.

The main regional headquarters of 88 per cent of these companies is in Jordan and they serve the whole area.

Reasons for choosing Jordan

For 69 per cent of the companies their choice of Jordan was influenced by the unstable Lebanese situation, 62 per cent because of political stability in

Jordan, 54 per cent because of the geographical situation, 46 per cent because of the law for registration of companies in Jordan, 31 per cent because of a number of facilities, 27 per cent because of the weather, 15 per cent because of the free economic system, and 15 per cent because of the contracts with the government.

62 per cent of the companies would prefer Beirut to be their centre, 35 per cent prefer Amman, 38 per cent prefer Amman as second choice after Beirut, eight per cent prefer Amman to Beirut.

Difficulties facing foreign companies

54 per cent of the companies face difficulties because of the lack of suitable secretaries, 38 per cent because of the lack of skilled workers, 35 per cent because of a shortage of middle level management in Amman, 27 per cent because of difficulties in locally employing senior management, 23 per cent because of labour costs, 19 per cent because of the low level of production.

Wages problems:

19 per cent of the companies consider the wages here

## Jordan Times to publish series of supplements

AMMAN, Feb. 1 (JT). — The Jordan Times will publish a series of special supplements throughout 1978 oriented towards business and industry, it was announced here today. The Jordan Times has already developed a reputation for detailed coverage of business news from both the private and government sectors, within Jordan.

All the supplements will be supported by advance publicity in the Jordan Times and its Arabic sister publication Al Ra'i. There will be extra print runs of the paper, on the days that supplements are published, to meet the increased circulation demand. Many of the supplements will be distributed by Jordanian embassies abroad and by ministries in Amman.

The Jordan Press Foundation, publishers of the Jordan Times and Al Ra'i have assigned responsibility for marketing and producing these supplements to Middle East Communicators, a Jordanian Public Relations and Advertising consultancy.

A total of 44 supplements will be produced on behalf of the Jordan Times between Feb. 25th and Dec. 30th.

The supplements are to be the same size as the regular Jordan Times newspaper and will be an integral part of the daily paper. For technical reasons advertising space in each supplement will be limited to a maximum of six pages. All supplements will include in-depth reports written by experts on the subjects being featured.

The supplements are designed to give advertisers the opportunity to reach key decision makers in government, business and industry within the context of special features of relevant interest to them.

The advertising rates for the supplements are to be slightly higher than the normal rates in the paper. A full page JD will cost JD 275, half page JD 150, and a quarter page JD 82,500 for the inside pages.

There will be surcharges for special positions. The first supplements will be published on Feb. 25th and March 4th and will be a two part report on Jordanian Banking and Finance.

On March 11th a supplement on Tourism will be published and on March 18th a supplement on Hotels and Restaurants. On March 28th, there will be a supplement on Airports and Aviation.

Other supplements planned for later in the year include Aqaba Port and Shipping, Telecommunications, Office machines and equipment, Jordanian Industry and Exports, Trade, Construction, Industrial Technology, the Jordan Valley, Jordan as a Regional Business Centre and Five Year Plan Review.

All advertising for the supplements must be booked through Middle East Communicators. Details of editorial contents and advertising rates and conditions are available from them at P.O. Box 327 or telephone 42928.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

Starting tonight and lasting through Saturday. The Girl in the French Slip will be showing at the Jordan Theatre on Jabal Lweibdeh at 8:00 every evening. The show is presented by the American Women of Amman and tickets are available from JMW Boutique, G.R. Ria Ma Music School, Interdesign (all in the New Insurance Bldg., Jabal Amman) and at the door.

At the British Council, a lecture by Dr. Adil Jarar will discuss the contemporary problem of air pollution and its various solutions. The lecture begins at 5:30.

The Friends of Archaeology are holding their annual Dinner Dancing Party tonight. Tickets are available at the Goethe Institute as well as applications for anyone interested in becoming a member.

## TO LET

Apartment in a very quiet quarter, near Third Circle, Jabal Amman, consisting of two bedrooms, two bathrooms, a spacious hall, a dining room and sitting room, open veranda, one kitchen, spacious garden with central heating.

Ring up telephone No. 41641 between 2:00-4:00 p.m.

lower than in their home countries, 46 per cent find wages similar to their countries, 31 per cent find wages more than double what they pay in their home countries.

## Housing problems:

58 per cent of the companies faced problems in housing their directors, 49 per cent faced problems in housing their employees, and 38 per cent had a problem finding offices.

The companies pay between JD 1,000-6,000 annual rent on their offices, 35 per cent of them pay JD 2,000-4,000, 20 per cent pay more than JD 4,000.

## Communication facilities

All the companies have a problem of delay in telephone installations, 23 per cent of them had to wait from three to 10 months to have a telephone line connected. 31 per cent had to wait less than three months. Four per cent waited 18 months.

## Airport facilities

73 per cent say the find the airport facilities in Jordan good, but the flights to the Gulf are not frequent enough and are at bad times.

## Ministry of Supply acts to cut cost of dining out in Jordanian restaurants

By Ian Kellas  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN, Feb. 31. — As from today it should be anything from five to 40 per cent cheaper to eat out in Jordan than it has been till now. This was the estimate of Mr. Yousef Annabi, Administrative Manager at the Ministry of Supply based on the new price controls effected by the Ministry on all restaurants. Mr. Annabi spoke to the Jordan Times while a long stream of rather distraught restaurant owners filed into his office today to have their price lists officially stamped.

It has already been decreed that shops must display their prices clearly; now it is obligatory for restaurants to put up a menu showing prices as they have been fixed by the Ministry of Supply. These vary according to restaurant classification -- from five stars down to one.

One restaurant proprietor told the Jordan Times that if prices were enforced as the Ministry has decreed them, all that will be able to do is to lock the door and give up his business. He gave examples of the impact the new decree has had on a two-star establishment. The price of a Pepsi has been halved (from 150 fils to 75). Shuqaf (a meat dish) which he claims costs 600 fils to buy from the butcher must sell now in his restaurant at 700 fils whereas before today it was priced at 900 fils. The price of a cup of Nescafe has been slashed from 350 fils to 100.

The proprietor claimed that the ministry does not know what it costs to run a restaurant. His rent alone he said was JD 2,500 a year. On top of that he has to pay the salaries of 15 employees.

## Complaints

Mr. Annabi admitted that there had been complaints about the price decree -- particularly from the "luxury" restaurants. He said that prices fixed by the ministry "were not taken from the Koran"; and "We must be flexible". Speaking not just about restaurant prices but all price controls, he went on: "We have

## Cost of living

Four per cent of the companies consider that the cost of living is similar to their own countries, 11 per cent think it is higher and 42 per cent that it is twice as high. 88 per cent agreed it is higher than in their own countries.

## Government procedures

92 per cent of the companies said that they find the government procedures are unnecessarily complicated.

69 per cent think that establishing personal relationships with government employees makes things easier for them. One third of all the foreign companies in Jordan think that giving "gifts" to government employees is necessary to make things easier. 61 per cent said they did not give gifts.

Three quarters of the companies think that Amman is the best place for the foreign companies to have their regional offices for the Middle East.

19 per cent disagree. At the end of the study the two university professors gave recommendations on how to attract more foreign companies to come here.

## Jordan's recurring and development budgets for 1978 total JD 85m.

AMMAN, Feb. 1 (JNA). — A royal decree was issued approving the state budget law for 1978.

The cabinet earlier approved the budget during a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Muammar Basyan on Wednesday afternoon.

Minister of Finance Mohammad Dabbas issued a communiqué in which he stated that the total income increase in the 1978 budget amounted to about JD 45 million, a percentage increase of 13.5 per cent. But the increase on local income is estimated to touch a percentage of 20.5 per cent.

Mr. Dabbas went on to say that current expenditure was expected to increase by JD 37 million, or 16.5 per cent, while the recurring and development budgets for 1978 totalled JD 85 million against JD 70 million last year, a 21.5 per cent increase. Estimate of the deficit in 1978 budget did not exceed that of last year which was JD 15 million, he added.

## Potash project could yield 25% annual profit

AMMAN, Feb. 1 (JNA). — The Director General of the Arab Potash Company Mr. Ali Khasawneh returned home from the United States of America today after a three-week working visit.

He said upon arrival that the purpose of the visit "was to evaluate the economic advantages of the potash project".

A meeting held in Pasadena by World Bank, the U.S. Agency for International Development and Jacobs Engineering Inc., the advisory company for the potash project, decided that

the project will show 25 per cent annual profit if the capital investment for the project is met by share issues and 10 per cent if it is covered by loans.

Mr. Khasawneh said that the potash project will cost \$420 million. The project will produce around 1,200,000 tons of potash annually.

On his way to the U.S. Mr. Khasawneh visited London where he discussed with a number of institutions the possibility of their raising finance for the project.

## THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN

## MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AQABA PORT DEPARTMENT AQABA — JORDAN

## INVITATION TO CONSULTANTS FOR PREQUALIFICATION

Aqaba Port Department requires the services of a West German consultant firm for:

## a) Training Centre

The establishment of a Port Training Centre in an existing building for the training of Deckmen, Winchmen, Foremen, Teleclerks, sorting clerks, shed masters, winch drivers, Forklifts and crane drivers, and equipment maintenance mechanics and electricians.

The consultant will advise and prepare specifications for the type of furniture, equipment and models which may be required for the school. He will also advise and supply the required number of instructors for school.

## b) Berth Maintenance Expert

The consultant will provide advice regarding the maintenance of piles in the existing berths either by cathodic or other means of protection. He will also train the port technical staff for the maintenance and light repairs of piles and deck slabs.

## c) Organisation Expert

The consultant will advise regarding the coordination between the port management and the maritime establishment (which is concerned with the handling of cargo inside the port) and also a suggested organisation for the possible amalgamation of the two bodies.

The consultants will produce evidence of their previous experience regarding the above terms, outline details of staff who might be employed and of their financial standing.

The prequalification documents must reach Aqaba Port Dept. Aqaba/Jordan P.O. Box (115) not later than March 1, 1978.

Copies of the prequalification documents must simultaneously reach Kreditanstalt Fur Wiederaufbau, Frankfurt am Main D-6, Palmenstrasse 5/9, West Germany.



## TO LET

Two-bedroom garden flat (with telephone), fully furnished and centrally heated, located near Zahran Post Office, Jabal Amman.

Phone: 23600, Mr. Khader.

dejice 15



# 50PEC members meet to resolve crude oil price differentials

GENEVA, Feb. 1 (AP). — Ministers and their aides from five members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries met here today to try to resolve their differences over pricing different varieties of crude oil. Though the economic impact of any decision here would be small, conference delegates said it was significant that the meeting was held at all.

Four OPEC members along the Gulf — Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait — have been squabbling for more than a year, charging one another with shaving these price differentials to keep sales steady at a time when non-OPEC oil sources in Alaska, the North Sea and Mexico have created a glut on the market.

Last July, Venezuela offered to mediate the dispute. Venezuela's minister, Hernandez Acosta, is leading the meeting here.

The meeting took place amid tight security. In addition to the meeting site in a luxury hotel — which costs \$660 a day — OPEC has booked two floors of the hotel for the three dozen participants.

Security was tight enough to lure Ahmad Zaki Yamani into public after a two-year absence. Two years ago, in Vienna at the

OPEC headquarters, Mr. Yamani was singled out by a terrorist group led by the Venezuelan code-named Carlos and threatened with death during a kidnap of more than 30 OPEC officials to Algeria. Mr. Yamani was unharmed, but friends say he has become extremely cautious.

Hernandez Acosta said before the meeting that it was being held because "the Saudis have agreed to discuss" the problems of differentials.

During the two-tier price system in the first half of last year, when Saudi Arabian oil cost about 3 per cent to 5 per cent less than that of the other three Gulf states here, Mr. Yamani was accused of undercutting prices in part to score political points with the United States. Iran, Iraq and Kuwait saw their sales fall, and they did not catch up in the second half because the growth

surplus meant that the few pennies separating prices became important.

The basic oil price is \$12.70 per barrel, but the so-called heavy crudes cost less because they are more expensive to refine.

Until last week, Saudi heavy crude — about 15 per cent of its total production — was the cheapest, at \$12.32. Then Kuwait cut 10 cents off its crude to \$12.27, while Iranian crude remains the most expensive, at \$12.49. Iraqi oil, though somewhat different in quality, is also thought to be more costly.

Kuwait's problem is especially acute, since it produces only heavy crude, and needs the output to keep up the flow of associated gas. It has invested \$3 billion in gas-processing.

A Saudi official said here that there was sympathy for the Kuwaiti problem, but that this did not mean that Saudi Arabia would lower its price or permit Kuwait a further reduction.

## Strike cuts Turkish oil output in half

ANKARA, Feb. 1 (R). — A pay strike at an oilfield in Diyarbakir Province, Eastern Turkey, has cut this country's oil production by more than half.

The stoppage by some 130 men employed by the Shell Company of Turkey has stopped all production from the company's wells, which normally yield around 28,000 barrels a day.

A Shell spokesman said contacts between management and workers were continuing.

Production from the wells in the area operated by Shell provide about 58 per cent of Turkey's domestic production.

Less than one quarter of Turkey's oil needs are produced locally, but the country has had problems paying for its crude imports from Iraq and the Libyan Jamahiriya because of a chronic shortage of foreign exchange.

## Poland devalues zloty

WARSAW, Feb. 1 (AP). — The Polish government devalued its currency today according to exchange tables published in the state-controlled press.

The zloty was listed at the tourist rate of 33.20 to the U.S. dollar. The official rate of 19.82 to the dollar was left out of the tables.

The West German mark was quoted at 15.58 zlotys, the British pound at 63.70. Government comment was not immediately available.

The order, issued in response

to requests from the four Gulf states, made reciprocity a condition.

Under the order published in the daily newspaper Al Medina, these people who own the land cannot sell it or grant to anyone else if they fail to construct houses on them the government would have the right to take it over in return for its original price.

The order also gave the nationals of the four Gulf states the right to retail trade in Saudi Arabia but not to act as agents.

Last year foreigners were banned from trading in the kingdom.

## Japan's reserves rise to \$23.37b.

TOKYO, Feb. 1 (R). — Japan's gold and foreign exchange reserves increased in January to a record \$23.37 billion, the Finance Ministry announced today.

The reserves stood at \$22.82 billion at the end of December.

# Germany pledges support for Greek entry to EEC by end of 1979

BONN, Feb. 1 (R). — West Germany has pledged to support Greece's bid to become the 10th member of the European Common Market (EEC) by the end of 1979, Greek Premier Constantine Karamanlis said yesterday.

Mr. Karamanlis told reporters after four hours of talks with West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt: "The West German government is in favour of speeding up the entry negotiations."

Mr. Schmidt said he hoped that negotiations for Greece's entry could be concluded under West German chairmanship of the European Council of Ministers by the end of this year.

In expressing this hope, I am well aware of the difficulties that have to be overcome," Herr Schmidt said. But it was in the interest of de-

mocratic stability in Greece that negotiations were not drawn out for too long, he added.

Mr. Karamanlis said he agreed with Herr Schmidt that the question of Greece's EEC entry had to be isolated from all other issues including that of the country's re-integration into the military cooperation of the North Atlantic defence alliance (NATO).

He added that West Germany had pledged to continue military assistance to Greece. Further West German private investment in Greece was also discussed.

Asked whether he believed the new Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit was prepared to solve the Cyprus conflict, Mr. Karamanlis said he hoped that the Turkish government would come forward with "logical and honest proposals."

## UAE to set up refinery at Ras Al Khaima

RAS AL KHAIMA, Feb. 1 (R). — Kuwait is to set up an oil refinery in this northerner of the UAE Emirates, under an agreement signed here yesterday.

The official Emirates News Agency said the refinery, to be set up at Khor Khawair, will have a production capacity of 100,000 barrels a day.

The Kuwait government will own 49 per cent of the shares in a company to be established with the state of Ras Al Khaima to operate the refinery.

Kuwait will also supply the refinery with all the oil it needs, carry it on its own tankers and market part of the output earmarked for export, the agency added.

The Kellogg Corporation, a major American refinery supplier, was already carrying out studies on the project, it said. No other details were immediately available.

But observers noted that the proposed site of the refinery lies within a border area claimed by neighbouring Oman.

## Is the Mediterranean dying?

### INVITATION FOR TENDER NO. TCC 2 / 78.

FOR THE PROVISION OF PREPAY COIN (PAY STATION) INSTRUMENTS, EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL BOOTHS, OR ENCLOSURES, FOR THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN.

The Telecommunication Corporation of Jordan invites the submission of tenders for the procurement of from 40-80 prepay mode operation coin operated (paystation) telephone instruments, outdoor and/or indoor booths, enclosures and associated accessories.

The successful bidder will be required to furnish and install a combination of booths, boothettes or enclosures complete with coin operated telephone instruments, accessories, power and telephone lines. The installations shall include all concrete footings, conduit and fittings and shall be on a "turn key" basis.

The total number of such installations shall be 20 and must include working tests.

A — Agents can obtain the tender documents from the Telecommunications Corporation in Amman for a price of JD 50 (not remunerable) at the following address:

Secretary of the Tender Committee  
Telecommunications Corporation  
P. O. Box 1689  
Amman, Jordan.  
(Telex No. 1221).

B — The tender documents consist of the following materials:

1. Instructions to bidders
2. Terms and conditions
3. Statement of work
4. Technical specification

C — The latest date for the submission of offers to the Telecommunications Corporation headquarters in Amman is 14:00 hours Saturday April 1, 1978.

D — Bids should be submitted in three separate complete copies, each suitably sealed with red wax and its covers labelled with the words "Bid for the provision of prepay coin operated (paystation) instruments, external and internal booths or enclosures. Tender No. TCC 2/78 original, first copy and second copy.

E — All bidders will be required to post a bid bond in the amount of five per cent of the bid value in Jordan dinars concurrent with the proposal issued from a Jordanian bank.

F — Any subsequent amendments will automatically be forward to purchasers of the tender documents.

G — All prices should be quoted in Jordanian dinars.

TCC Tender Committee  
Amman, Jordan.

Every year huge amounts of pesticides, metals (including 100 tons of mercury), untreated sewage and industrial waste enters the Mediterranean. Because the sea is virtually a lake, pollution is a major problem and one which becomes ever greater. Recently representatives of all its coastal states, with the exception of Albania, assembled in the latest of a series of meetings to review a three-year programme by the U.N.'s Environment Programme. Ian Guest reporting on the meeting, finds that there was a certain cooling of enthusiasm for the programme.

By Ian Guest

MONACO — How great is the threat of pollution in the Mediterranean? Despite alarming statistics from scientists, and talk in recent years about the "dying sea", that question is not quite so easy to answer today as might be supposed.

That, at least, is the feeling after a meeting of coastal states called to review a three-year programme by the U.N.'s Environment Programme (UNEP), which finished in the principality of Monaco recently.

The meeting brought together delegations from all the 18 states except Albania, which has consistently refused to attend. They had before them evidence by UNEP that the sea, if not actually dying, is nonetheless seriously ill.

Waste dump

Dr. Tolba, the Executive Director of UNEP, in his opening address, stated that each year a huge amount of pesticides (including 90 tons of DDT), heavy metals, (including 100 tons of mercury) untreated sewage and industrial

Jordanian fils  
Buying/selling  
U.S. dollar 313.00/315.00  
U.K. sterling 611.00/615.00  
W. German mark 148.30/149.20  
Swiss franc 157.60/158.50  
French franc 66.30/66.70

Italian lire (for every 100) 36.20/36.40

Japanese yen (for every 100) 129.80/130.60

Dutch guilder 138.40/139.20

Belgian franc (for every ten) 95.90/96.50

Swedish crown 67.20/67.80

will be clarified at future technical meetings. UNEP officials now expect that the protocol will not be ready for signing until well into 1979, possibly later.

Identifying the problems

The areas of disagreement have emerged in Monaco as the following: Whether or not existing factories should be allowed a long time before building in pollution controls.

Whether states which contribute to the sea's pollution but are not themselves coastal members, should be held responsible. Whether states which cause pollution should pay compensation. And whether the protocol, which "extends to coastal waters up to the fresh water limit", should include inlets and bays. Each point was argued at enormous length. But it was clear at the end that the states to the south of the Mediterranean were all concerned that the treaty could have serious effects upon their industrial development.

The meeting was the latest of several, and also the most important in the three-year UNEP programme, which began in 1975 with an overall declaration of principle in Barcelona. This has now been signed by 15 governments. But before it can become a legally-binding treaty, at least six of the states must ratify it. The treaty would then come into force.

Tunisia, for example, makes use of many deep bays and inlets in her phosphates industry — and so argued that these be excluded from the scope of protocol. Algeria was worried throughout that curbs (which UNEP has tentatively estimated could cost up to \$5 billion, spread over a period of 20 years), would be too expensive. Morocco wanted states to be held strictly responsible, on the argument that the northern states, which are more heavily industrialised, caused most pollution.

All the North Africans insisted that existing factories should adjust to the new controls quickly — on the grounds that applying strict controls to "new installations" would penalise their own industrial plans.

Behind this lay an even more complex issue — and one that will be difficult to resolve, although barely surfaced at the meeting. What levels are to be permissible? UNEP has proposed two lists of substances. One, the "black" list, would contain heavy metals whose emission into the sea in dangerous quantities would be prohibited altogether. The second, a "grey" list would contain substances to be strictly regulated.

They were right. The meeting had before it the draft of the protocol which had been agreed at a previous meeting in Venice last October. By the end of the meeting, they had succeeded in doing little more than highlighting the key areas of disagreement. These

thus are how much is "dangerous" — and how can it be monitored? There are two ways, as well, in which they could be controlled. One would be to impose a uniform level of "acceptability" which would apply to all factories around the sea. But this, the North African states feel, would have a harmful effect upon their factories, which are far fewer than those in the north.

They therefore favour the second option — which would be to look first at the nature of the water into which the factories are pouring their waste, and then decide how much pollution it can take. Because they have long beaches and few factories, the southern countries like Libya and Morocco are confident that their industry would escape unharmed.

### Environmental management

But if the developing countries were apprehensive about costs, so were the northern states. UNEP officials are keen to move away from a narrow definition of pollution to the wider concept of "environmental management".

The area, they point out, receives up to 100 million tourists a year, and brings in fish which was last year valued at \$700 million. Curbing pollution is therefore just one aspect of the sensible economic management of the sea.

UNEP has drawn up a blue plan for the overall management of the sea, and a set of priorities covering tourism, sensible use of energy, fishing and water management.

Officials agreed, however, that little progress had been made in these areas — beyond restating principles and welcoming details of individual projects by the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP).

There was disappointment

that too a permanent monitoring system of the sea's state was not agreed upon: So this now remains with 79 different stations around the coastal states.

The main reason was thought to be costs. Under the formula for assessing contributions to the United Nations, France alone would have to pay 47 per cent of the costs of any integrated development plan.

So both the northern delegations and those from the southern shore decided that there was a serious need for "more information" — not only on the implications of UNEP's ambitious proposals, but also the actual levels of pollution. "We simply don't

know enough about what is harmful", said one delegate, referring to the fact that mercury is considerably higher in the Mediterranean than other seas. Italy even proposed that sensitive data on the pollution might have to be kept secret, for fear it might get distorted.

Some observers talked of "backing off" and "enthusiasm cooling". They thought that the meeting had put back the programme by a year. But UNEP officials put a brave face on it. One welcomed what was called the "realistic tone" of the meeting. "We expected and hoped that the governments would look very closely at this," he said. "We want a treaty that they will want to observe."

One result of the meeting is to leave the costs and administration of the programme, which absorbs \$1.5 m. of a \$4.1 m. UNEP global seas programme, very much with UNEP executives had expressed the hope that the governments would take over 75 per cent of running costs starting in 1979. But this meeting has shown that the hope was premature — even though one delegate said "the Mediterranean is still a model for controlling pollution in the rest of the world."



debt collection



# Europe-bound Israeli oranges said poisoned by West Bank workers

TEL AVIV, Feb. 1 (R). — The Israeli Citrus Marketing Board claimed today a metal substance found in some oranges sent from Israel to Europe had been inserted after the fruit arrived in Europe. A group calling itself the "Arab Revolutionary Army - Palestine Command (ARA - PC)" has claimed in a letter addressed to 18 European and Arab countries that "oppressed Palestinian workers" in the Israeli-occupied West Bank poisoned oranges with mercury to damage the Israeli economy. Oranges are Israel's main agricultural export product.

Board spokesman Isaac Lipkis, in a statement issued here today, did not identify the substance, though the market group's manager for the Benelux countries, Mr. Jacques Arad, said yesterday that it was mercury.

Mr. Arad was commenting in Rotterdam on the case of five children in the southern Dutch town of Maastricht who were treated in hospital for 24 hours over the weekend after eating some of the contaminated oranges. A Dutch Health Ministry spokesman said they suffered no after-effects.

Mr. Arad said yesterday mercury had been found in Israeli oranges in Holland and West Germany, and authorities were investigating the cases.

Today's Citrus Marketing Board statement in Tel Aviv said oranges with "a metal substance" had been discovered in two places in Europe. The discovery was made "in a very small quantity of oranges by the customers themselves. After examining the fruit it was found that the damage to the fruit occurred in Europe," the statement claimed.

It added that the customers had been able to "identify the damage to the oranges from external signs."

The Dutch Health Ministry spokesman said yesterday the mercury was visible as tiny silver grey particles, but they

amount was so small there was no direct danger to health.

In Bonn, the West German government has ordered spot checks of Israeli oranges after it received ARA-PC warnings.

West Germany and Norway are the only countries so far to confirm receiving the letter.

A copy of the letter received by Reuters in London yesterday was addressed to the health ministries of 18 West and East European and Arab countries.

They were: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Britain, France, Holland, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway, Sweden, Finland, West Germany, Yugoslavia, Romania, Kuwait, Jordan, Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

Finland and Sweden said today they had not received the letter.

Both Kuwait and Jordan said today they had not re-

**Muzorewa will rejoin  
Salisbury talks while  
Malta parley adjourns**

**Bonn minister  
resigns over  
bugging affair**

**VALLETTA, Feb. 1 (R).** — British and American Rhodesia negotiators and the Patriotic Front black guerrilla leaders held final talks here today before the expected departure for London this afternoon of British Foreign Secretary David Owen.

Mr. Robert Mugabe and Mr. Joshua Nkomo, co-leaders of the Patriotic Front held talks today with Dr. Owen and United States Ambassador to the United Nations Andrew Young in a hotel overlooking Malta.

Conference sources said today's talks -- the third day of negotiations on settlement terms to end Rhodesia's guerrilla war -- were expected to try to fix a date for a further meeting in the future.

So far the negotiations, marked at times by emotional exchanges between the Patriotic Front leaders and Dr. Owen, have failed to bridge the wide gap between Western and guerrilla peace terms.

Meanwhile, the Rhodesian government last night smoothed relations with the United African National Council (UANC) of Bishop Abel Muzorewa, clearing the way for full-scale resumption of the rival internal

talks in Salisbury to bring about black rule.

Following a meeting between Rhodesia's Deputy Premier David Smith and UANC Vice President James Chikerema, the council announced it would make an end to its boycott which began when Bishop Muzorewa stormed out of a meeting last Friday.

**Life could exist on Mars after all**

**WASHINGTON, Feb. 1 (R).** — Scientists have reopened the possibility of life existing on Mars after the discovery of tiny organisms hiding in the interior of rocks in the Antarctic wastes.

Working in freezing temperatures where relentless winds keep snow from settling and have sculpted rocks into strange shapes, researchers have found "micro vegetation" where it was believed life could not exist.

The discovery, announced yesterday, was made in a region known as the Dry Valleys, on the coast of the Ross Sea near

the U.S. scientific base at McMurdo Sound, tucked safely under the surface of certain rocks in the air pockets of porous rocks or in fissures.

Dr. Richard Young, chief of Planetary Biology at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), which co-supported the research, said the extreme environment of the area was similar to that found by the Viking space probe on Mars.

"If Martian life forms exist in the interior of rocks, that could easily explain the lack of evidence of life on Mars," he said.

**Life could not break open rocks and analyse the interior.**

**could penetrate to a depth of several millimetres.**

The sunlight not only warmed the area immediately under the surface of the rock to life-sustaining temperatures, but provided the energy for photosynthesis, the chemical process by which all plant life exists.

The rock "roof" protected the micro-organisms from excessive radiation and kept them from drying out.

Dr. Friedman said when the rocks were broken open, the organisms were seen as a dark greenish layer several millimetres deep.

**Students attack Gandhi at election meet**

**NEW DELHI, Feb. 1 (R).** — Students threw stones and sandals at the platform when former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi addressed a meeting in the south Indian State of Karnataka yesterday and later stoned her car, the Samachar news agency reported. Mrs. Gandhi, who leads one wing of the divided opposition Congress Party, is on an election campaign tour in Karnataka, one of five states that will hold elections next month. The incidents occurred at Tiptur, about 130 kms. from Bangalore. Samachar said about 200 students tried vainly to disrupt the meeting but Mrs. Gandhi's supporters countered their efforts. The stones thrown at her car damaged the windscreen and windows, but Mrs. Gandhi and others in the car were unharmed.

**Cairo court jails 15 Moslem extremists**

**CAIRO, Feb. 1 (AP).** — Fifteen persons were sentenced yesterday to prison terms ranging from two years to six months for belonging to a fanatical clandestine Moslem organisation planning to overthrow President Anwar Sadat's secular regime. Another 67 were acquitted. Twenty-five members of the organisation received sentences last November ranging from death to life imprisonment terms for the kidnap-murder of a former cabinet minister last July. No date has been set for the executions. The accused were among 204 persons, including 24 women, arrested following the murder of Sheikh Mohammad Al Zahab, a former Minister of Religious Endowments who campaigned against the group.

**Moscow denies making new killer germs**

**MOSCOW, Feb. 1 (R).** — The Soviet Union yesterday issued a strong denial of a Brussels report that its military scientists were developing new strains of killer viruses and microbes. The report, issued on Monday by Reuters quoting Western intelligence sources, was described by the Soviet government news agency Tass as a "cruel and vicious fabrication." Tass said the report was so absurd it could well be ignored. The Soviet agency said such stories could be regarded only as "attempts to justify the military buildup by the Western countries and the plans to manufacture and use the neutron bomb. It is well known that the Soviet Union... has signed the convention banning the development, manufacture and stockpiling of bacteriological, biological and toxin weapons," it said.

**Soweto's school strike continues**

**JOHANNESBURG, Feb. 1 (AP).** — Most secondary schools in the black township of Soweto were deserted today, the first day of school, as students kept their pledge to continue boycotting classes until the government abolishes separate education for blacks. Three high schools of the 40 in Soweto reported a fair number of pupils present but there were no teachers.

**W. German gun chosen for main U.S. tank**

**WASHINGTON, Feb. 1 (R).** — The United States announced yesterday that it has chosen a West German gun over British and American weapons for use on its new XM-1 tank. Army Secretary Clifford Alexander told a Pentagon press conference he would advise Congress that, while the U.S. 105mm gun was adequate now, the larger 120mm German design provided a "significant advantage" against advanced armour. The army secretary said that with successful development German guns could be placed on XM-1 tanks by 1984. Several thousand XM-1s with the smaller U.S. gun will have been produced by then, he said.

# Only a miracle will allow Chad to survive

By Michael Goldsmith

**N'DJAMENA, Feb. 1 (AP).** — Defense Minister George Leber has submitted his resignation to Chancellor Helmut Schmidt following a new bugging scandal, the chief government spokesman announced today. The 57-year-old minister has been under strong attack from opposition Conservatives over an alleged spying in the ministry and the bugging of his personal secretary's apartment. His critics say Herr Leber minimized or attempted to conceal the facts about the two affairs.

this area are surrounded by rebels and supplied only by air.

**One-fifth of Chad in government's hands**

Only the densely-populated southern fifth of the country, where most of the four million Chadians live, remains firmly in government hands. The mostly Christian or Animist population in this area grows the cotton that provides 80 per cent of Chad's export income. The average citizen earns around \$80 per year, making Chad one of the world's ten poorest nations.

North of the Tibesti, in an area where no Chadian soldier has set foot for 15 years, the Libyan government of Col. Muammar Qadhafi has arbitrarily annexed 75,000 sq. kms. of supposedly uranium-rich Chad territory.

Mr. Malloum has refrained from breaking relations with Libya, while continuing hitherto fruitless efforts to negotiate with Col. Qadhafi through the Organisation of African Unity.

An official Libyan map in the office of Libyan Ambassador Hamza Mahfoud shows parts of neighbouring Niger and Algeria as well as northern Chad as Libyan Territory. "We have no quarrel with Chad," Mr. Mahfoud said. "Our troops occupy only what is our land, and we want to maintain close, brotherly relations with our Chadian neighbours."

Libya's version of the border is not negotiable, Mr. Mahfoud declared.

Mr. Malloum is even weaker

against the Libyan takeover than against the Toumbou rebellion. Government officials point to the Soviet-made trucks, mortars, rockets and machineguns used by the Libyan army and its Toumbou allies.

The officials say the loss of northern Chad is part of a vast Soviet-inspired strategy of "destabilisation" in Central Africa which aims ultimately at the overthrow of the pro-

Western regimes in Egypt and the oil-rich states of the Middle East.

**U.S. arms, French subsidy**

Chad's exports totalled \$60 million in 1976, leaving an overall trade deficit of more than \$50 million. The French government pays President Malloum an annual subsidy amounting to 30 per cent of the \$70 million budget. It also provides some 300 French troops to help train the Chadian army and maintain its equipment, but the French army is no longer engaged in combat against the rebels.

A 3,000-man French expeditionary force lost dozens of killed between 1970 and 1975 in a fruitless effort to help Chad contain the rebellion and "pacify" the Toumbous. Mercenary pilots from France fly the Chadian air force's six Skyraiders in combat sorties against the rebels.

The huge country has only 145 kms. of paved highway, none of it leading to the capital, N'Djamena. The communications problems hinder both sides in the 17-year-old civil war, and there is no sign of rebel activity in the dusty streets of the capital.

Nonetheless, President Malloum is building a two-metre-high concrete wall fitted with slits for gun emplacements all around the headquarters of the ruling Supreme Military Council in N'Djamena. He took power in an army coup in 1975 and has survived two abortive counter coups by disgruntled officers.

**Oil hopes**

President Malloum's hopes for Chad's survival are based

# Right seeks halt to arms shipments as tension in South Lebanon rises

**BEIRUT, Feb. 1 (R).** — Lebanon's alliance of rightwing parties yesterday called for an end to arms shipments to Palestinian commandos amid mounting gloom here over the prospects for peace in the Middle East.

A communiqué published by the military command of the rightwing Lebanese Front urged the government to declare the southern port of Tyre closed to international shipping and thus cut the main arms supply line for the Palestinian and their leftwing Lebanese allies.

According to Western diplomats here, both sides in the Lebanese conflict -- which is inextricably linked with the overall Middle East crisis -- have been receiving a steady stream of arms and ammunition over the past two months.

The arms build-up comes as predictions mount that Lebanon will serve as the flashpoint of another Israeli-Arab or inter-Arab war linked with the fate of President Sadat's peace overture to Israel.

These fears are based on the continuing war in southern Lebanon along the sensitive frontier with Israel, which backs rightist forces against Lebanon's Palestinian-leftist alliance. These have been fighting since the 19-month civil war ended in Lebanon, except in its southern region, over a year ago.

"There are three alternatives at present, and they are all bad," the analyst said. "If Sadat and the Israelis conclude a separate peace deal, there will be fighting on the eastern front -- between Israel and Syria. Southern Lebanon will be involved."

"If there is a comprehensive peace agreement, there will be civil strife inside Arab countries or between Arab countries by pitting opponents and supporters of whatever accord there may be."

Despite common opposition to President Sadat, Syria and Iraq failed to bury their differences over arms shipments to register as foreign agents and related charges.

If convicted the two men, who entered their formal plea today, face up to life imprisonment.

Vietnam's Mission to the United Nations last night dismissed the accusations as "a blatant fabrication..." Another action of the (U.S.) administration's policy towards the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Mr. Humphrey, 42, who works for the United States Information Agency and Truong Dinh Hung, 32, son of a candidate in South Vietnam's 1976 presidential elections, were arrested yesterday by Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agents.

A federal court in Alexandria, Virginia, last night set bail for each of them at \$250,000.

A seven-count grand jury indictment charged them with espionage, conspiracy, theft of

government records, failing to

register as foreign agents and

related charges.

If convicted the two men, who entered their formal plea today, face up to life imprisonment.

Vietnam's Mission to the United Nations last night dismissed the accusations as "a blatant fabrication..." Another action of the (U.S.) administration's policy towards the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Mr. Humphrey, believed to be the first American accused of spying for Vietnam is a foreign service information officer for USAID, where he has worked for 12 years. He served in South Vietnam from 1969 to 1971 and also spent time in West Germany.

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